



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

June 16, 2008
For Immediate Release
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Preserve Announces Expanded Visitor Activities

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve announces expanded visitor activities during the bus tour season.


From June 7 through October 19, 2008, living history programs will be offered from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on holidays and the first and third weekends of the month. Ranching activities and demonstrations will take place throughout the day with a special interpretive program given at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Visitors may try their hands at skills that were needed for daily life on a working ranch. Special activities may include historic cooking, music, quilting, carpentry, roping, gardening, saddling, and blacksmithing. Beginning June 7th and continuing through October 4th, the first Saturday of each month will feature live historic music and wool spinning demonstrations throughout the day, with historic cooking demonstrations from 10 a.m. - noon. A schedule of activities is posted on the preserve website at www.nps.gov/tapr.

From June 14 through October 26, 2008, the *Red House Discovery Hike* will be offered at 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday on the second and fourth weekends of the month. Rangers will lead a ninety- minute nature hike through the spring- fed Cottonwood grove in Red House pasture, southwest of the historic ranch headquarters area. Visitors are encouraged to wear appropriate hiking clothing, bring drinking water, and use insect repellent. Other natural history programs will be offered at 2:30 p.m. on the second and fourth weekends of the month.

Starting June 5, 2008 the preserve staff is offering volunteers an opportunity to help harvest prairie seed to be used in the restoration of bottomland prairie areas. Join the staff in the *Prairie*

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Seed Harvesting project on the first Thursday in June, July, September and October during the hours of 9 a.m. to noon. Advance sign- up is required, so be sure to call (620) 273- 8494 for details and to sign up.

On Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22, the preserve opens the top floor of the barn for the once a year exhibit of historic farm machinery from the 1920s to the 1940s. Hear the ring of the blacksmith's hammer on Saturday and smell the smoke from the campfire as a meal is prepared for the ranch hands using historic cooking methods.


On July 12 and 26 and August 9 and 23, a new *Campfire Program Series* is offered. Join us to learn about different natural history topics around a campfire beginning at 7 p.m. An hour- long nature trail hike completes the evening program at 9 p.m.

On the nights of Monday, August 11 and Tuesday, August 12, join us for our new *Night Sky Program*. Experience the Perseids meteor shower from the backcountry of the preserve from 9 – 11 p.m. Reservations are required for this activity and the cost is \$5 per adult and \$3 for children ages 5 – 18. Call 620- 273- 8494 to register.

September 13 and 14 is set aside for *Prairie Wildflower Weekend*. Enjoy wildflower and medicinal plant hikes, Kansas Native Plant Society education programs, prairie bus tours, guest speakers, nature trails, and more.

From April 26 through October 26, 2008, a 6.4- mile bus tour of the prairie is available daily at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 for ages 5 – 18 years. There is no charge for children age 4 and under. Advance reservations are recommended, but arrangements can be made on the day of the visit if space is available. A two- person minimum is required for the bus tours. For more information, please call the park rangers' offices at (620) 273- 8494.

From May through October, guided tours of the historic 1881 limestone ranch house are conducted hourly on the half- hour starting at 9:30 a.m. and concluding at 3:30 p.m. A reservation is not required for the tours.



The Lower Fox Creek School, a one- room schoolhouse, is staffed by volunteers and is open to the public from 12 noon until 4 p.m. on weekends during May and June, and again in September and October. Please call ahead to verify program availability.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is a public/private partnership with the National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the Kansas Park Trust. Located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway), the preserve's historic ranch headquarters is open daily from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. For more information or to make group reservations, visit the preserve's website at www.nps.gov/tapr, e- mail tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, or call the preserve at (620) 273- 8494.

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